



Investigate Student Attitudes About Gender Equity

Grades: 9-12
Time: 1 class period
Subjects: English, social studies, speech

Description: This activity provides students with an opportunity to identify their attitudes about gender equity, to discuss how their attitudes were formed, and to think about how their attitudes may affect their career choices.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Assess individual gender attitudes.
- Recognize factors that influenced individual gender attitudes.
- Understand how attitudes regarding gender equity affect individual growth and career choices.

Materials:

Handout: "Attitude Survey"

Procedure:

1. Introduce topic of gender equity.
2. Assign students individual task of investigating their attitudes towards gender equity and certain life choices by completing the attitude survey.
3. Have students give their responses in a round robin method, and then break them into groups to discuss their answers and to come to consensus on the items.
4. Ask groups to share their consensus on the items. Then have them compare the individual and group responses and note any changes in attitude.
5. Have students discuss the results of the attitude survey, including the following:
 - How were these attitudes formed?
 - Who influenced these attitudes?
 - Do you think these attitudes play an important part of your daily life?
 - Do these attitudes play an important role in your future ambitions?
6. Summarize the results and reinforce that attitudes are influential in creating individual choices, and that understanding how attitudes are formed can help us overcome possible barriers when making career choices.

Evaluation: Assess student's performance by listening and observing their individual participation in the activity. Consider whether they see alternative career choices that were not considered before this activity.

Option: Have students complete the attitude survey at the beginning of the school year and again at the close of the school year to determine any change in attitude.

Source: Lesson written by Donna O'Connor for *Infusing Equity by Gender Into the Classroom: A Handbook of Collaborative Practices*. Dr. Nancy Sullivan, Editor, Rhode Island Commission on Women; Educator's Colloquium on Gender Equity, Rhode Island College/Feinstein School of Education and Human Development; RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. RICW: Providence, RI.

Student Attitude Survey

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Strongly Disagree	Disagree
Women are more responsible than men are.					
Men should have more education than women should.					
It is important for women to show their sensitivity.					
It is important for men to show their sensitivity.					
A man should be paid more than a woman doing the same job.					
Money spent on athletics should be evenly divided between boys and girls.					
Women should have the same career opportunities as men.					
Both men and women can be capable administrators.					
Women should make career adjustments when they have children.					
Men should make career adjustments when they have children.					